

SPAWN®



image

275

DIGITAL
EDITION

THE FUTURE OF COMICS
25
EST. 1992

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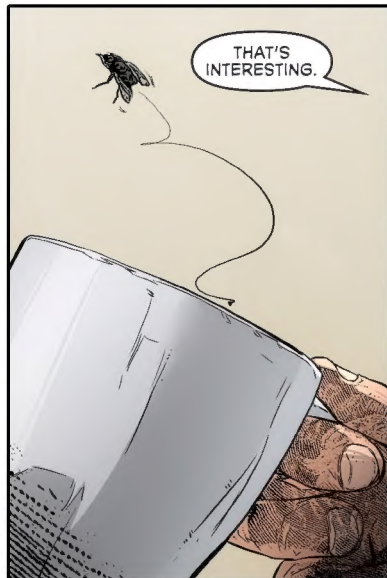
Publisher For Image Comics
ERIC STEPHENSON

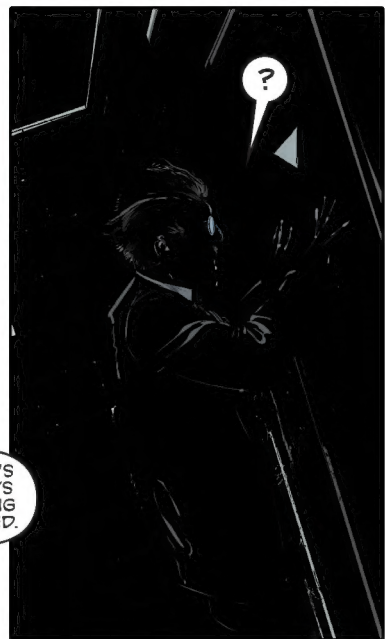
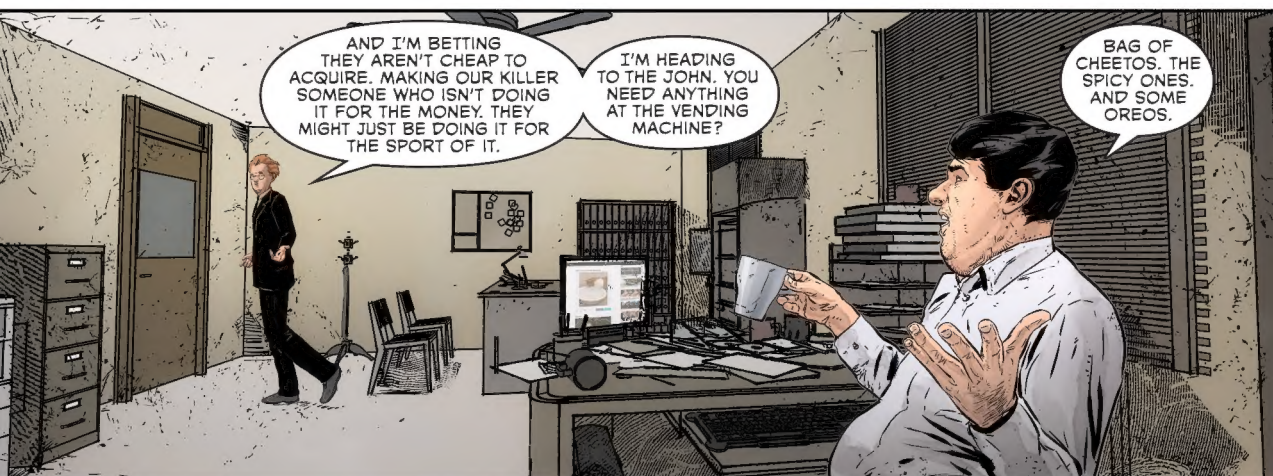
SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE

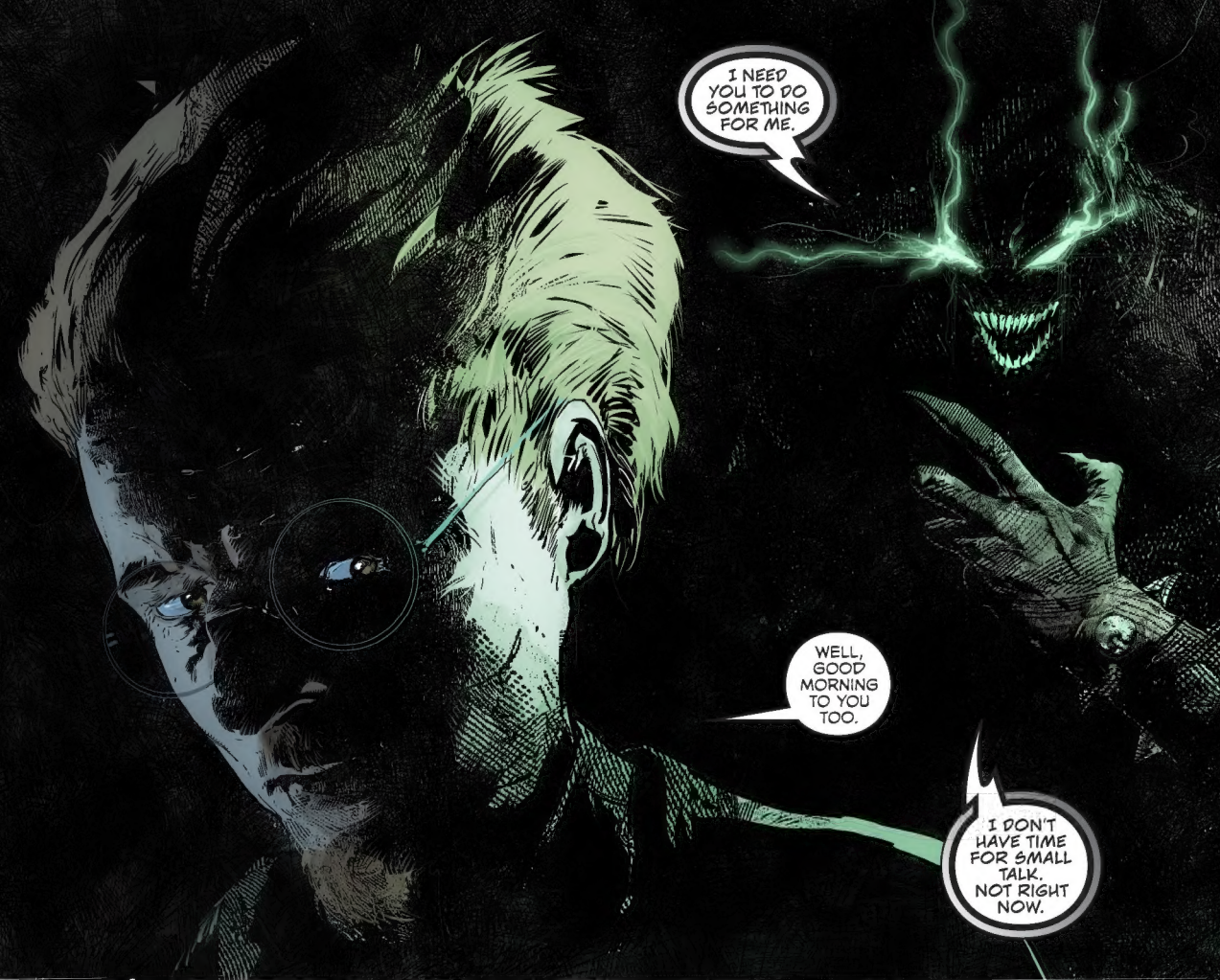
PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

The Soul Crusher strikes again, killing an innocent nurse who was caring for Cyan when she was in the hospital. Sam and Twitch are in pursuit of the Soul Crusher and after questioning an antique dealer about the WWI masks, they get a small but significant lead. On the way back to the police station, Sam stops in a donut shop and Twitch waits outside. Al surprises Twitch and asks him to look for a place to hide Cyan until he can find out who is chasing her. Meanwhile Terry tries to get back some sense of normalcy by sending the kids back to school. Cyan gets on the bus, but before she can make it to school, the bus explodes. The cause of the explosion is the Soul Crusher, who has come to 'help' her. As he attempts to kidnap her, Spawn appears and a massive fight ensues. Although Spawn defeats him for a time being, he now knows he needs to send Cyan somewhere where she'll be safe.





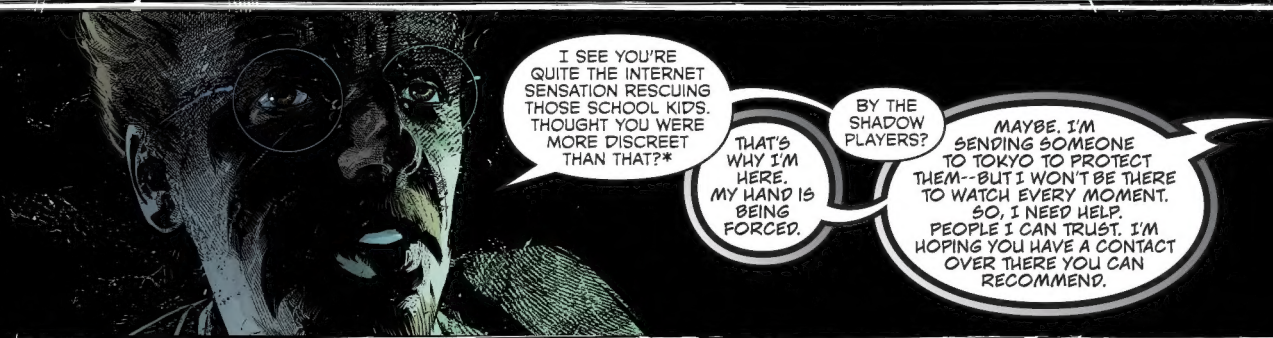




I NEED YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME.

WELL, GOOD MORNING TO YOU TOO.

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR SMALL TALK. NOT RIGHT NOW.



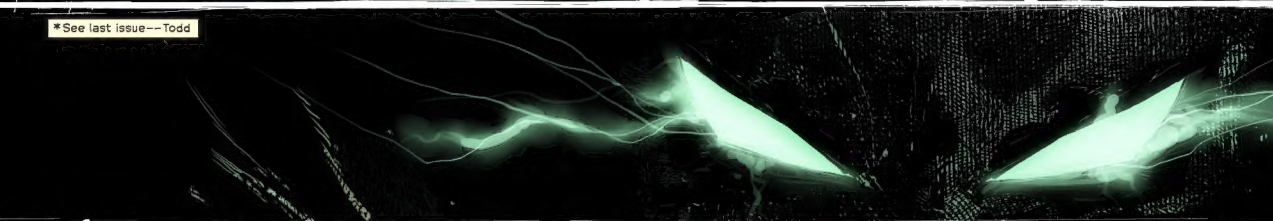
I SEE YOU'RE QUITE THE INTERNET SENSATION RESCUING THOSE SCHOOL KIDS. THOUGHT YOU WERE MORE DISCREET THAN THAT?*

THAT'S WHY I'M HERE. MY HAND IS BEING FORCED.

BY THE SHADOW PLAYERS?

MAYBE, I'M SENDING SOMEONE TO TOKYO TO PROTECT THEM--BUT I WON'T BE THERE TO WATCH EVERY MOMENT. SO, I NEED HELP. PEOPLE I CAN TRUST. I'M HOPING YOU HAVE A CONTACT OVER THERE YOU CAN RECOMMEND.

*See last issue---Todd



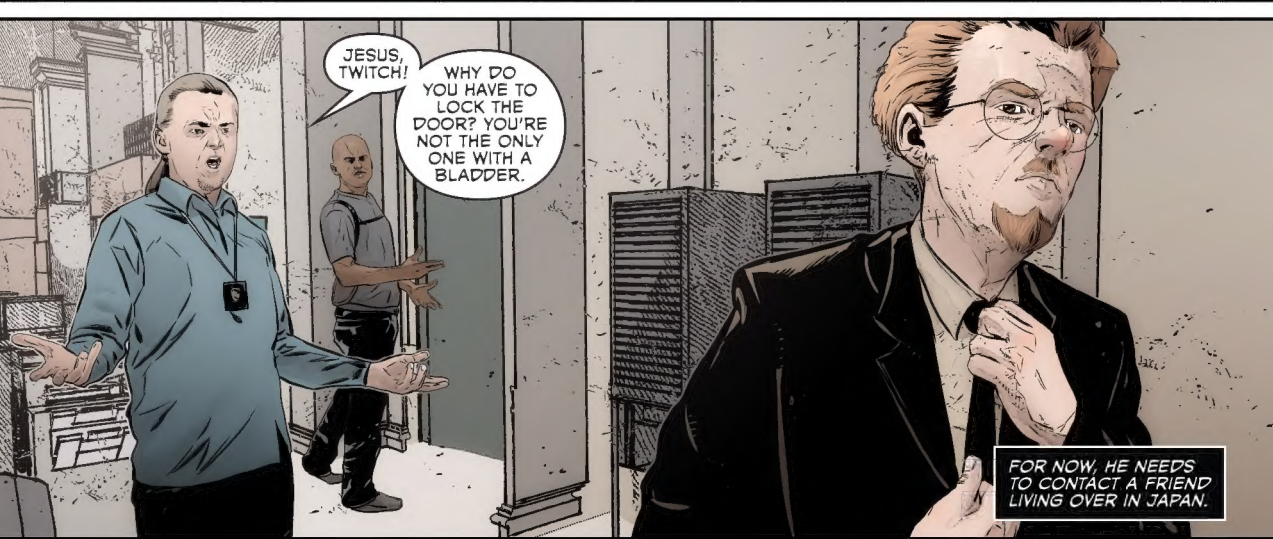
AND YOU DON'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW THIS IS HAPPENING?

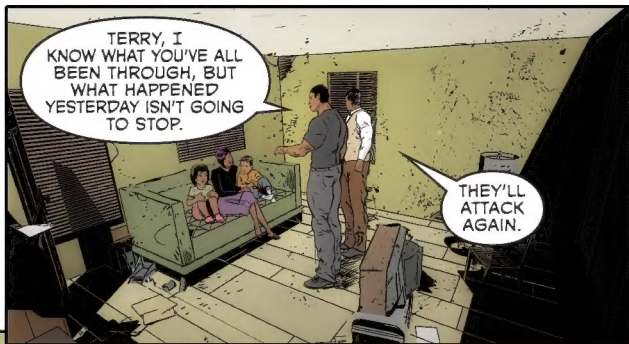
THIS PERSON YOU'RE HIDING, THEY MUST BE VERY IMPORTANT TO YOU.

EXACTLY.

I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

SHE IS.









NOW
SETTLE
DOWN!
BOTH OF
YOU.



AND WHAT
DID YOU MEAN--
YOU'RE DEALING
WITH HELL?



HE DOESN'T
KNOW?

NOT
COMPLETELY.

AND YOU
EXPECT EARL
TO JUST BECOME
A TARGET TOO. LIKE
CYAN. AT LEAST
HAVE THE GUTS TO
SHOW HIM WHAT
YOU ARE.



YOU'RE
RIGHT.






EVERYONE
NEEDS TO
UNDERSTAND
THE DANGER
THEY'RE IN.

BUT EARL ISN'T
A TEENAGER. HE'S DEALT
WITH THE LIES AND DECEIT AND
CONS OF ADULTS ALREADY.
CYAN DOESN'T HAVE THE SKILL AT
THIS AGE TO DECIPHER WHEN
SHE'S BEING LED INTO A TRAP.
AND PHYSICALLY THEY'D
DESTROY HER.

I'M ASKING
YOU TO MOVE
HER, NOT HIDE
HER. JUST PUT A
LITTLE DISTANCE
BETWEEN HER
AND THEM.



WHERE
WOULD SHE
GO?



JAPAN.

THERE ARE
PEOPLE THERE WITH
"SPECIAL" SKILLS WILLING
TO HELP. TO GIVE HER
A HOME.



I WISH THERE WAS SOME OTHER WAY. BUT THEY'LL KILL HER OTHERWISE.



WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO AFTER SHE GOES?



I'M GOING TO KILL THEM FIRST.

HOW MANY ARE THERE?

I DON'T KNOW.

THEN HOW LONG IS IT GOING TO TAKE?


UNTIL NONE OF THEM ARE LEFT.



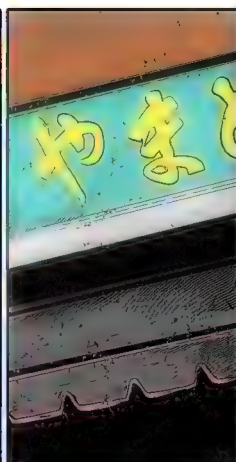
I'M... LET ME TALK TO MY CHILDREN.




TAKE AS MUCH TIME AS YOU NEED.



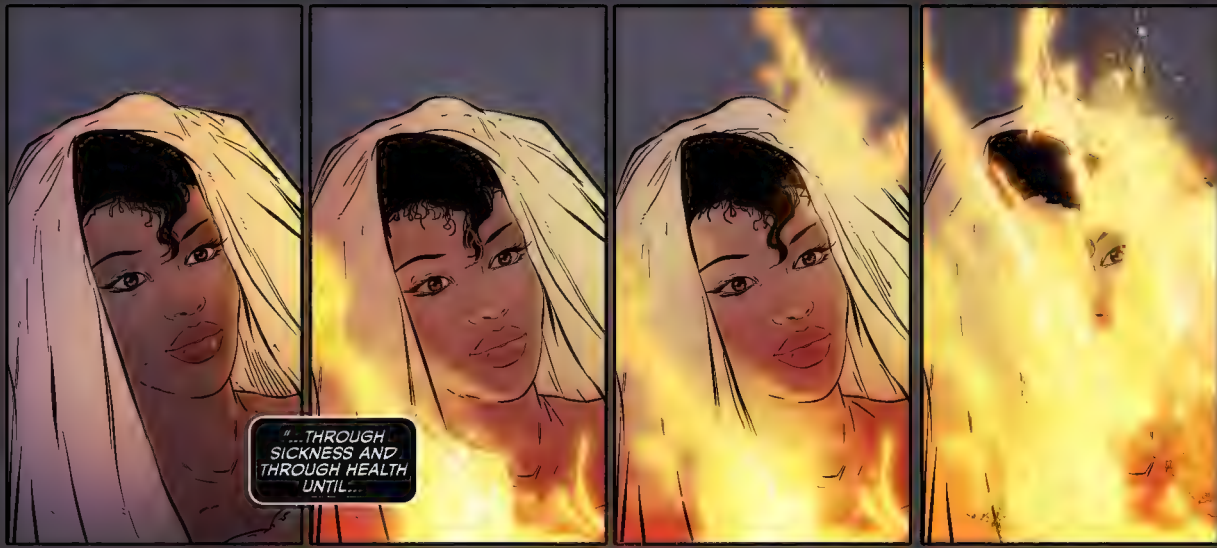
SO, THIS IS THE KIND OF SHIT I'M INVOLVED IN?





"...AND DO YOU,
WANDA BLAKE, TAKE
AL SIMMONS TO BE
YOUR LAWFULLY
WEDDED HUSBAND..."

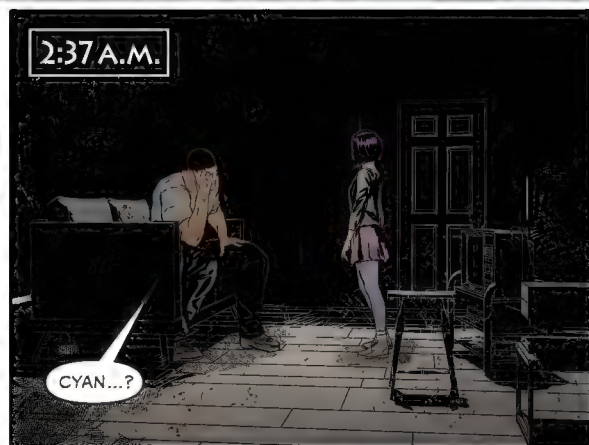
"...TO CHERISH AND
TO HONOR..."

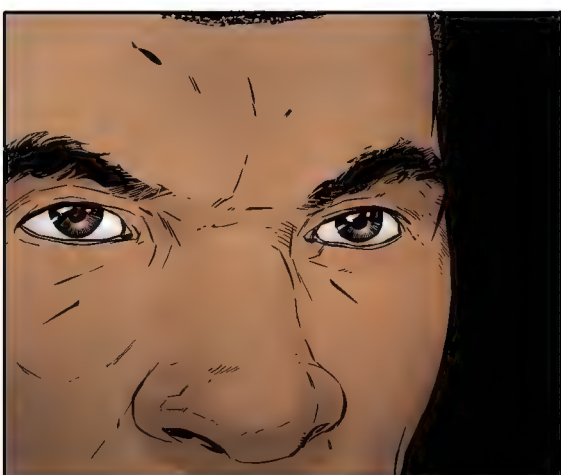


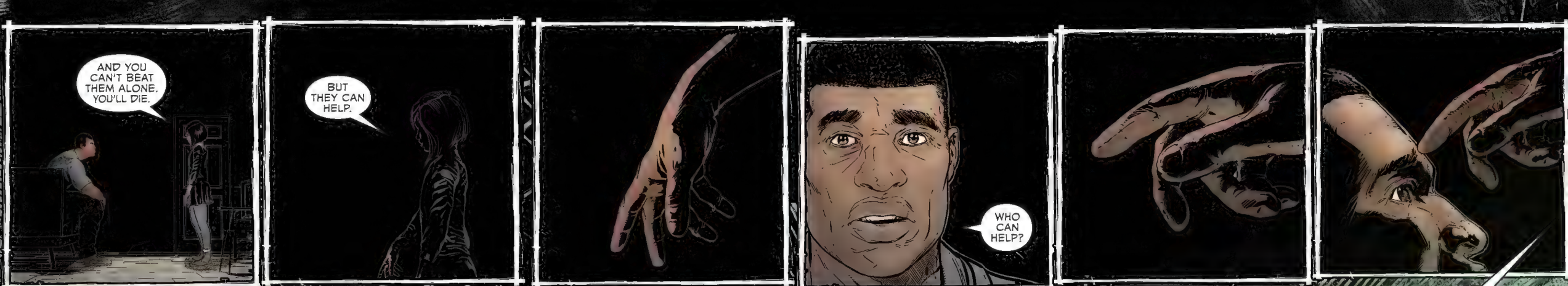
"...THROUGH
SICKNESS AND
THROUGH HEALTH
UNTIL..."

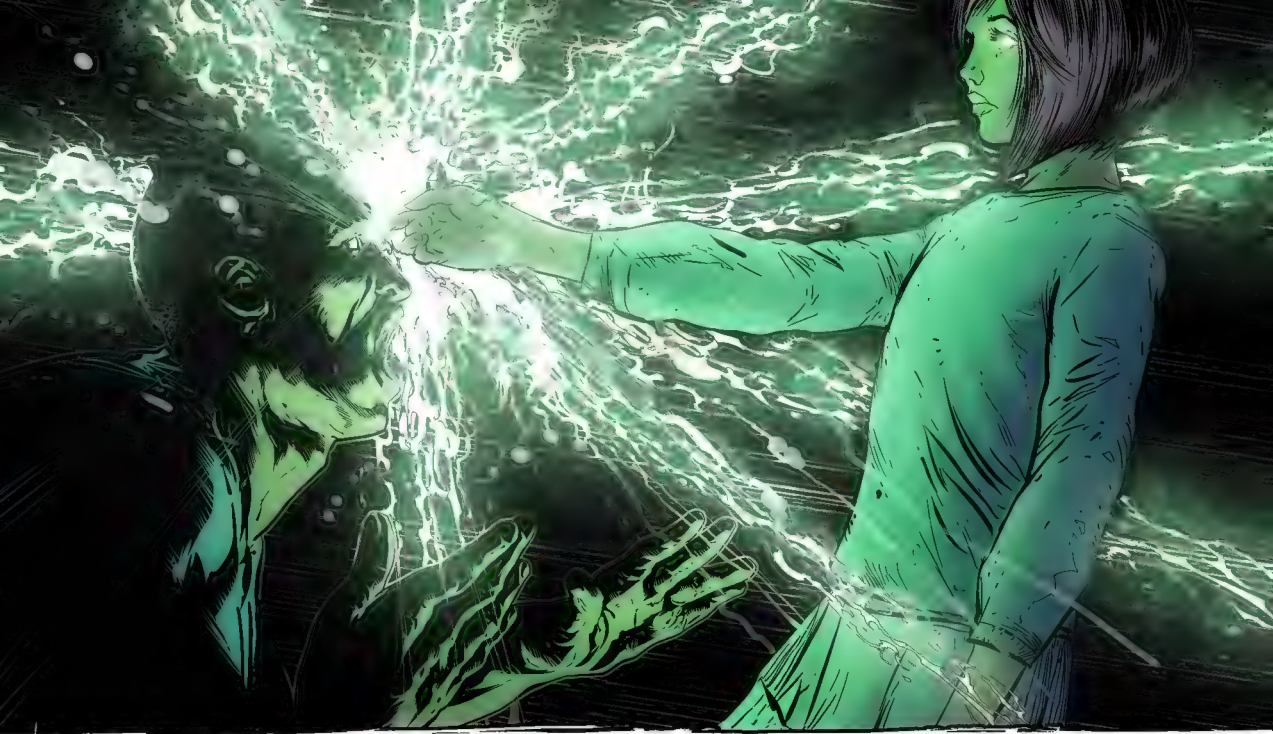


"...**DEATH**
DO YOU PART?"









WHAT...
WAS THAT!?

YOUR
POWERS.
THEY'VE BEEN
RESTORED.



YOU'VE BEEN
ACTING LIKE A HUMAN
FOR TOO LONG. YOU CAN'T
WIN THE WAR THAT WAY.
YOU NEED YOUR FULL
STRENGTH.

AND
MAGICALLY
YOU'VE MADE MY
COSTUME WORK
AGAIN?

NO. I'VE
MADE **YOU** WORK
AGAIN. YOU'RE SPAWN.
NOT YOUR COSTUME.
IT'S **NEVER** BEEN ABOUT
YOUR COSTUME.



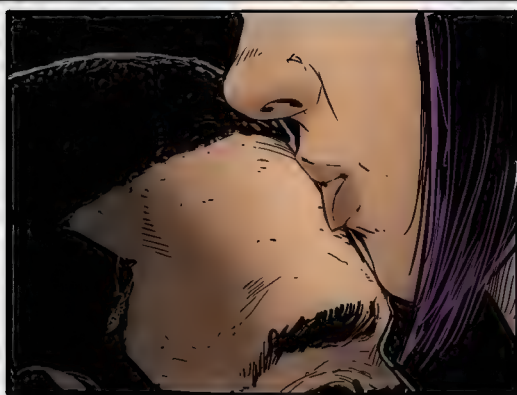
HELL. HEAVEN.
YOURSELF. YOU'VE ALL
BELIEVED THE POWER WAS
IN YOUR COSTUME. IT WASN'T.
SPAWN IS INSIDE YOU. TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF THAT--AND
LET YOUR ENEMIES FOOL
THEMSELVES INTO
BELIEVING WHATEVER
THEY WANT.

BUT
WHEN THE
TIME IS RIGHT,
YOU'LL
BE A KING AND
THE 'OTHERS'
WILL RISE AND
FOLLOW
YOU.

WHO
ARE
YOU?

I'M WHAT THEY
MADE ME. WHAT THEY
MAKE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE
HAVE TO LIVE WITH EVERY
DAY OF THEIR LIVES.

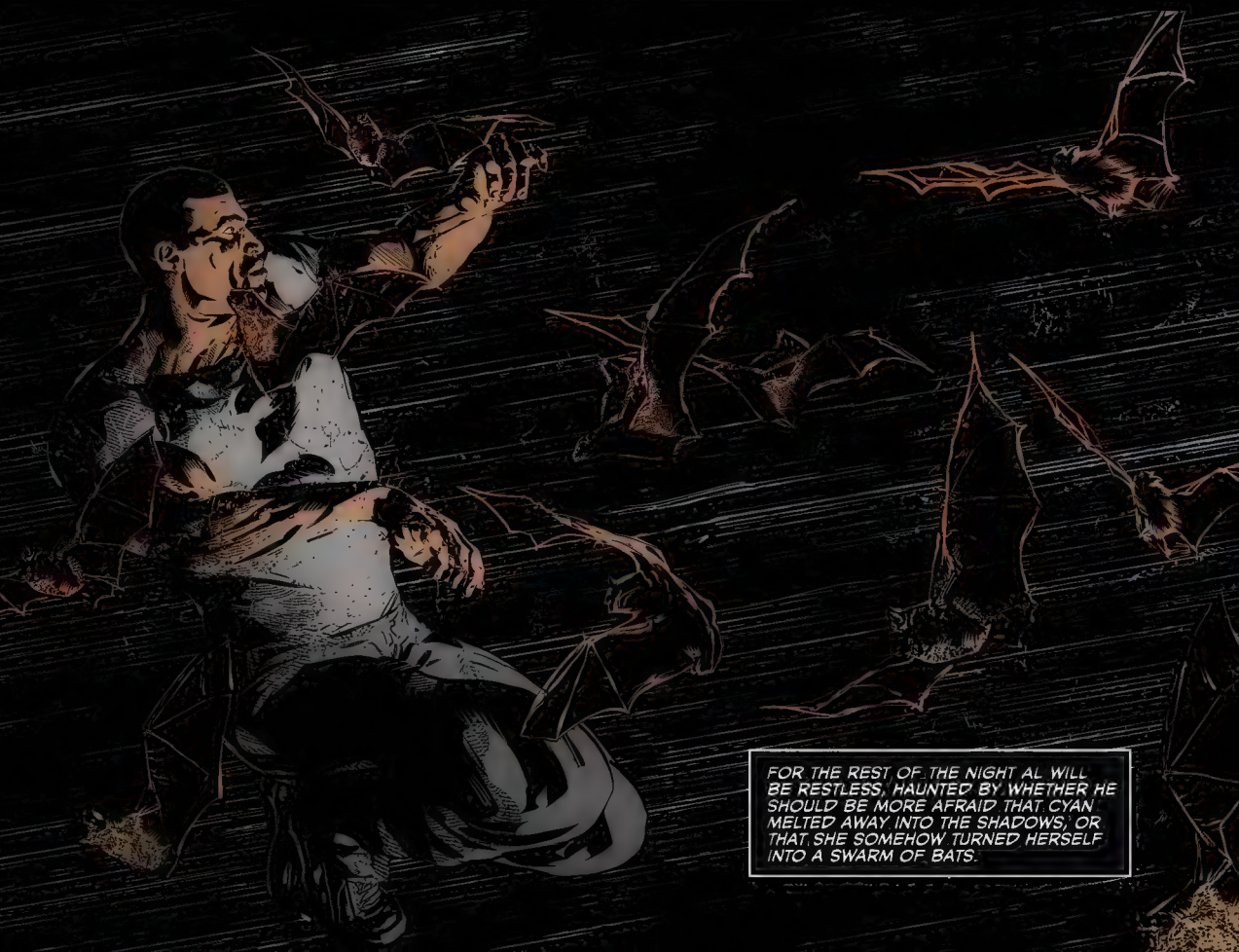
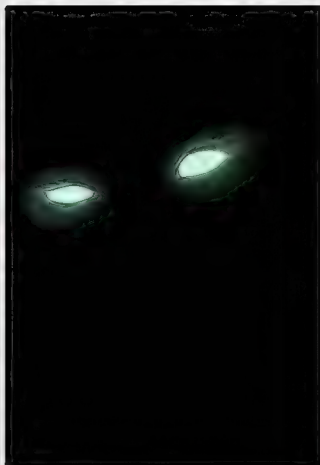
MY NAME IS
'MISERY'. AND BEFORE
LONG I AM GOING TO JOIN
YOUR WAR TOO. BECAUSE
I KNOW YOU'RE STRONG AND
DETERMINED AND WILL BE
RELENTLESS, BUT I ALSO
KNOW SOMETHING ELSE--
THAT YOU ARE A
GOOD MAN.



THEY'RE
WAITING FOR
YOU. BECOME
THEIR KING.



AND
LEAD
THEM.



FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT AL WILL
BE RESTLESS, HAUNTED BY WHETHER HE
SHOULD BE MORE AFRAID THAT CYAN
MELTED AWAY INTO THE SHADOWS, OR
THAT SHE SOMEHOW TURNED HERSELF
INTO A SWARM OF BATS.



WE HAD A LONG TALK ABOUT IT LAST NIGHT. THIS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. I BOOKED THE TICKETS BEFORE I WENT TO BED.



I'LL SEND THE REST OF CYAN'S STUFF LATER.

I KNOW THIS IS HARD FOR YOU, TERRY.



THANKS TWITCH, I OWE YOU BIG TIME. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH THIS WILL PUT HER FATHER'S MIND TO REST.

WHAT'S THAT?

YEAH. SOMEONE WILL BE WAITING FOR THEM AT THE AIRPORT. TERRY WILL GET TO SEE HOW NORMAL CYAN'S LIFE WILL BE. AND THE PEOPLE BOARDING HER HAVE BEEN IN THIS BATTLE A LONG, LONG TIME.



HEY UNCLE AL, HOW WAS YOUR SLEEP?

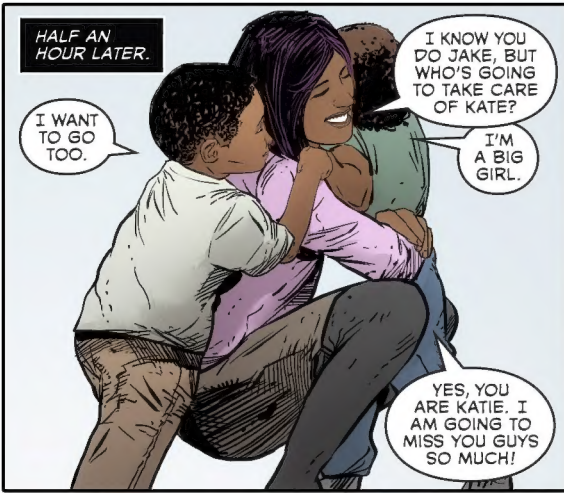
I'VE HAD BETTER. WHY? HOW WAS YOURS?

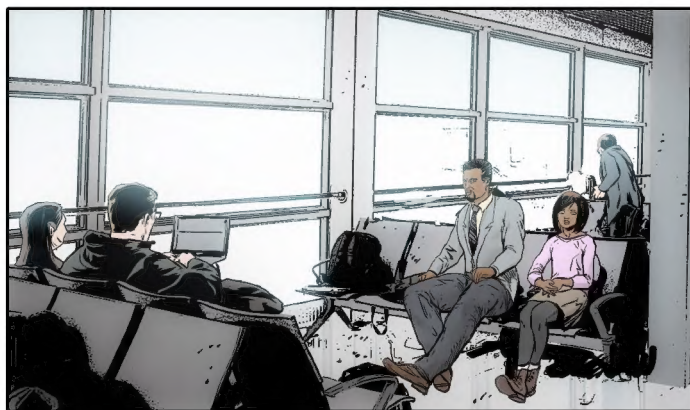
YOU KNOW I'LL BE THERE ANYTIME YOU NEED. YOU JUST CALL. OKAY?

AWESOME. I'M KIND OF EXCITED ABOUT MY TRIP.



I WILL. I LOVE YOU. MISS ME LOTS.





WELCOME TO
TOKYO, JAPAN.

NEXT ISSUE: AMAZING ARTWORK BY
JASON SHAWN ALEXANDER

SPAWNING GROUND

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MONTHLY CONTEST

WIN a 10 minute Skype call with Todd McFarlane and some COOL McFarlane toys and comics!

Each month readers will be giving a secret code word available ONLY in Spawning Ground.

Enter that code word HERE:

mcfarlane.com/spawningground
for your chance to win awesome prizes!

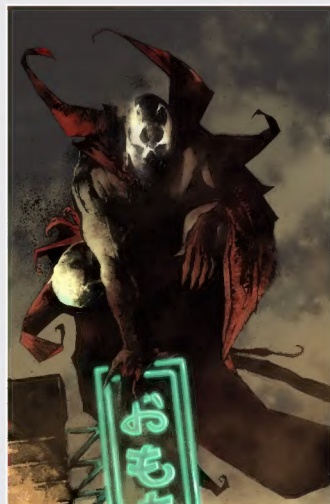
Spawn 275 Code Word: **SPAWNINJAPAN**

Winners will be notified by email two weeks after the release of the comic.

Good Luck!

Thank you all for being loyal fans of Spawn!

Shannon Bailey
Publishing Coordinator



NEXT ISSUE

DARK HORROR PART 1 of 6

An even darker new chapter in the Spawn saga begins with a new creative team! Art by Eisner-nominated illustrator Jason Shawn Alexander, and story by Darragh Savage & Alexander.

On the other side of the world in Tokyo, a dark conspiracy is unleashed and an old enemy resurfaces. To combat this evil, Spawn will evolve NEW POWERS in order to inflict the same HORROR, pain, and destruction as Hell has done to him over the years.

COMING
JULY



PABLO RAIMONDI
& KLAUS JANSON

SACRED CREATURES

SOME SINS WILL FOLLOW YOU...



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